



Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

HI-Q

Thunder Bay, Ontario



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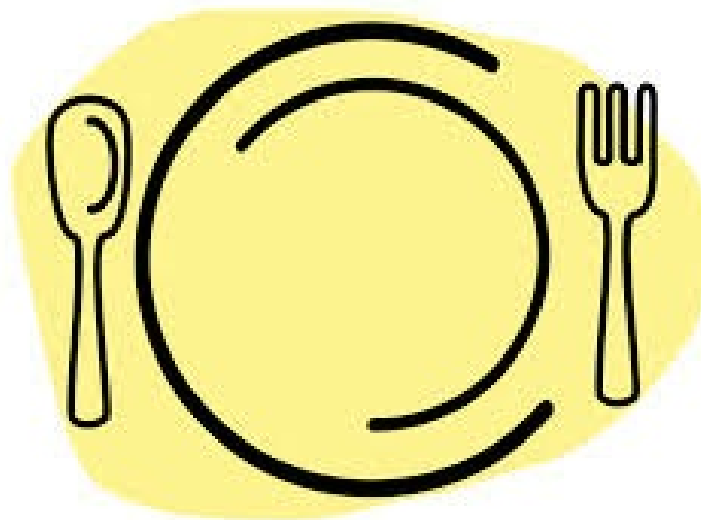
Issue #4

ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday April 11th

1800 hours

Chicago Joe's restaurant in the Victoria Inn
on Arthur Street
regular menu



LARC SENATE

Keith Fiske VE3JQ SK
Pat Doherty VE3PD
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President - vacant

Vice President - vacant

**Secretary - Jeff Cederwall
VE3JTD**

Treasurer -Paul Curtin VA3PDC

Directors

Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Lori Bedford VE3VAI
Bill Unger VE3XT

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

**ARES District Emergency
Coordinator**

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631
VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

Public Service Events

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Accredited Examiners

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ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to ve3snw@shaw.ca

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Sunday AMETHYST ARES VHF NET, on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9031 @ 0045Z (7:45 pm), also Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS 151.4

Monday SATERN NET on VE3TBR 146.820- pl 107.2 IRLP Ref. # 9032

SATERN DIGITAL NETS on **Monday & Wednesday** nights

8 pm- 14.065

9 pm- 7.065

10 pm- 3.5835

Mode :Olivia 8/500 1000Hz waterfall centre

Tuesday 2M/ LARC ARES NET on VE3YQT 147.060- @ 7:00PM ET, and after this net is the new THUNDER BAY ARES DIGITAL NET on PSK31 between 1000 & 2000 WATERFALL 145.050 FM mode @ 7:30PM (usually starts after the 2m/ ares net)

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)pl 100
144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

Operating Portable: Does Not Have To Be QRP, But It Helps!Fred VE3FAL

Portable operations have become a huge hit with today's ham radio enthusiasts. I do not just mean Field Day or that Public Service event, or even Freeze Your Buns Off (F.Y.B.O.), but getting out with that radio gear in a small backpack, or saddle bag on a motorcycle or pedal bike. Use of a canoe or kayak, to get to that favorite operating spot, or even just a hike to a mountain top or a local Park.

The internet can yield all sorts of radio Hobbyists that like to operate portable and I will list some of those groups and even some of the people who have had great success with these operations. As always though please remember to be safe when hiking outside or in the bush, be aware of ticks, animals and even mosquitoes, and let folks know where you plan to be. Safety is always number ONE just like YOU.

HFPack is probably one of those groups most known to hams on the go. The group meets at Dayton every year and is not hard to spot at all with backpack radios and antennas of all types on those packs. Some of these radios are surplus military gear that has been resurrected and used right on up to models made by Vertex, Yaesu and Icom, as well as homebrew gear. Power levels range from QRP levels all the way up to hundreds of watts. Antennas are military whips and small magnetic loops or a dipole strung out and a drag wire trailing them. Modes operated are everything from SSB to CW and even digital modes as well as FM repeaters and simplex communications. The HFPack webpage can be found here: <http://hfpack.com/>

Another group is the Great Outdoors radio Club or G.O.R.C. who are also a group of folks who like to operate from almost anywhere they can. Many members are involved in Summits On The Air (S.O.T.A.) and activate peaks using amateur radio and help others with gaining points towards awards, and helping activators also gain points towards awards. The G.O.R.C. also has a yahoo group but there main page can be found here: <http://www.wa3wsj.org/gorc.html>

The S.O.T.A. group is a very active group and very popular in Europe. We do have summits in Canada and we are currently working on an Ontario Association as believe it or not there are summits located here in and around Thunder Bay with a couple located out towards Nololu and Northern Lights area. There are various points' schemes with S.O.T.A. based on sum-

mit height, weather and more. To visit the S.O.T.A. group see: <http://www.sota.org.uk/>

When I think of a Pedestrian Mobile Operator that I have worked numerous times (mostly from Pikes Peak) in some very interesting places I think none other than Paul Signorelli W0RW. Paul lives in Colorado Springs Colorado and operates PM from all areas with an expedition to a Mexican Volcano in 2008. Paul has many YouTube videos about his excursions and has even written a book on Pedestrian Mobile operations. Paul's information can be found at:

<http://www.qrz.com/db/w0rw> .

Now not to forget about our members who enjoy the sport of riding the two wheel pony. There is a ham out there in California who has made numerous YouTube videos and operates in most contests and ham radio fun events using a recumbent bicycle to get from point A to point B and operate anywhere in between those areas and of course stopping to have his burrito. I am talking of course about Rem K6BBQ,

<http://www.qrz.com/db/K6BBQ> . Rem has all kinds of videos out there on his adventures with ham radio on the go, and of course when people hear his call out there on the air they say it makes them hungry, I wonder why? Great job to both Rem and Paul for their great outdoor adventures that many of wish we could partake in, at least I know I would love to do more of this type of operating.

A number of us locally have in the past operated and activated some of the Provincial Parks for Parks On The Air (P.O.T.A.). There are all kinds of Parks in this great Province of Ours and this is a great way to see those Parks and promote amateur radio to the public eye as well. There is a yahoo group dedicated to parks as well as Railroad Caboose cars and almost anything outdoors. The P.O.T.A. group can be found here:

http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/p_o_t_a/

I have been building a backpack radio unit for myself this past winter while on the road. I am using an Expedition Outfitters pack on an old backpack frame that is aluminum; I hoarded this frame for years for this purpose. My original plan was to use the FT-817, HF-Packer Amp (30 watts), LDG 817H tuner, LiPo battery packs to power radio and tuner and a Chameleon Hybrid Mini with a military whip a AT-271B/PRC mounted on the pack and using a drag wire.

But I figured that for the extra power source needed for the amplifier to operate around 20 watts (power out that most military man packs use) I figured I would be

better off with the FT-857 and get rid of the amplifier. So what I ended up with in the pack was the FT-857, LDG817H tuner (runs off internal AA batteries), LiPo battery packs for the radio, Chameleon Hy-Brid, whip and counterpoise. So what does my pack look like?

Here you go:



So this is the start of my soon to be operable PM setup for those outing in the great Northwestern Ontario outdoors. I also have other antennas that will connect to the Chameleon instead of the whip to help with poor band conditions. I plan to operate the radio at 20 watts as the high power limit and of course 5 watts QRP for most qso's be it SSB or CW.

73 and good DXing and enjoy the upcoming spring and summer de Fred VE3FAL



Where's ~~Waldö~~? VE3XT



Bill has been conspicuous by his absence...here is the answer, operating as CT7/VE3XT from his hotel room.

Want to help South of the Border?

Please contact Jayne if you would like to help out!

I don't have many details about the Ham Run Marathon, except that it is Sunday, May 5th, and we need your help!

Please let me know if you can help out that day, and feel free to share this note with anyone else you think may be interested.

More info will be coming soon!

Thanks much,
Jayne
jaynef@blackspruce.com

March 2013 Treasurers Report

Balance March 01 2013	\$1,656.18
Income	
Mar 01	
Membership	\$70
and Dec 50/50	\$8.00
Total Income	\$78.00

Expenses	
Mar 07 UPS , mail box rental 2 yrs	\$274.95
Mar 11 Trailer cell phone	\$0.57
Total Expenses	\$275.52

Balance March 31 2013	\$1,458.66
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Trailer Account

Previous Balance	\$653.30
Income	

March 31 2013 Interest	\$0.06
Total	\$653.36
Expenses	

Total Expenses:	\$0.00
Balance in Trailer Account	\$653.36

Term Account

Balance March 01 2013	\$2,025.09
Interest March 10 2013	\$0.67
Balance March 31 2013	\$2,025.76

Paul Curtin VA3PDC
Treasurer LARC

Meeting Minutes for the Lakehead
Amateur Radio Club
March 14, 2013

President Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD Presiding

Treasurers Report: Paul Curtin Va3PDC

A motion was made by Paul to accept the minutes as published in Hi Q. The motion was seconded by Harvey Larabee VE3LHA. The motion passed.

Meeting Minutes: Jeff Cederwall VE3JTD

A motion was made by Jeff to accept the minutes as published in Hi Q. The motion was seconded by Lori Bedford VE3VAI. The motion passed.

ARES: A meeting has taken place with Donna Faye a Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Center Communications officer, Brad Harris VE3MXJ and Fred Lesnick VE3FAL. This meeting was to discuss Amateur Radio's part in an emergency.

CANWARN: Nothing to report

Public Service:

10 mile road race May 21, 2013

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club and all of its members thank Norm Bell VE3XRC for all of his years of service to the Sleeping Giant Loppet. Thanks Norm!

RAC: Nothing to report.

Trailer Report: Nothing to report.

Repeater News: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

The Upsala repeater will be back up and running after Randy's next trip west. All components of the system were tested and found to be in good working order. The IRLP on the VE3TBR repeater is down and the APRS is currently intermittent due to a noise problem.

Annual Supper meeting: The Annual supper meeting will be taking place on Thursday April 11, 2013, 6 PM at Chicago Joes

Bills:

The bill for \$79.92 for changing the insurance has been paid.

The tax on the UPS rental for \$35.75 has been paid.

Presentation:

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ gave a presentation of his family's trip to Las Vegas

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM

PREZ SEZ

I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather, it appears that spring is upon us. Soon it will be time for fishing, camping, golfing, etc. and I for one am excited.

With this weather also comes field day and camp 807. I for one have never attended Camp 807 and I am excited to do so this year. The dates for this event are set tentatively for July 26 to 28 in Atikokan. Anyone looking for more information on this event is encouraged to contact Warren Paulson VE3FYN of the Atikokan Amateur Radio Club (ve3fyn@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing all of you at the supper meeting this Thursday.

Have a fun and safe April.

Jeff VE3JTD

SKYWARN CLASSES

Skywarn class this year is May 6,

1:00-4:00 at Marvin's

6:00-9:00 at Polaris.

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/fgf/?n=skywarn>

If you want to take these in, you might want to give a shout to Art Johnson at aj@wiktel.com for more details.

For those that don't know, Skywarn is the American version of Canwarn, but much more active because of their extreme weather.

Canwarn Training in Northwestern Ontario will take place during the week of June 3 with specific dates and venues being announced in the next training update.

Thoughts of spring...Phil VE3AXL

Well the Kam river is starting to show signs of break up but its going to be a while yet before we go camping. Still it doesn't stop us from thinking and doing some planning.

Recently I have begun to think of such things and a big one is powering our radios while camping. I have a little qrp radio that requires little in the way of power so have been looking at alternative power sources..

For most of us we have relied of the lead acid gel cell batteries. The 7 to 10 amp batteries are cheap and take a lots of abuse. The also take up a lot of space and are heavy.

Over the past few years I have tried the rechargeable nicads and while they work they don't hold a charge for more than a few weeks and they are not cheap. I have tried carrying a spare pair in my camera case and have found them dead when I came to use them. For the ultra light qrp radios there is still the good old alkaline AA batteries.

Cheap, reliable and good for a short period of operating time.

Recently there has been a buzz among the camera buffs about a new type of rechargeable nickel metal halide batteries. These are made by Sanyo and are ENELOOP AA rechargeable that can be recharged 1800 times and hold a charge for 5 years of non use.

Like all nimh batteries they are 1.25v and not 1.5v like the alkaline. They can be charged with the average charger and have a capacity of 2000 mah of storage. The price on the net is around \$3 per battery. Of course they are not available here in Thunder Bay. Some camera shops have had them but it's a hit and miss thing. .

I have recently purchase a set of 8 but have paid for a set with larger capacity of 2500 mah but their recharge life is only good for 500 recharges.. I figure a set should last me a week for the amount I operate while camping. So 50 weeks in a year goes into 500 recharges that makes it about ten years of battery life.. Hard choice.

I have built a charger (into an Altoids can of course) that can run off 12 battery and these can be recharged over night if required. There are commercial chargers out there as well

Something else to play with are discarded lithium computer batteries. I have torn apart a defective laptop battery. One cell was dead. I carefully rearranged the remaining ones into a set of parallel series battery pack. Two parallel and three in series for 6 batteries.

THESE ARE VERY POWERFUL AND ARE DANGEROUS IF MISHANDLED IF SHORTED, OVERHEATED THEY CAN CAUSE FIRE AND EVEN EXPLODE

These are like AA batteries but larger and are tabbed together. IF CAREFUL they can be rearranged and the tabs soldered into a new pack configuration. They are 3.5v per cell at 1800 ma. This means that my home-made pack gives me 10.5v at 3600 mah. Two of these are equivalent to a 7ah lead cell battery for a fist full of batteries.

Now this type of battery is used by the model plane hobbyists as they demand high current loads and quick recharges to fly their models. They also have special chargers that control the parameters of these batteries especially heat.

I have been playing with a very low recharge rate of 200 to 300 ma using a 9v wall wart and have recharged this home made pack a couple of times. Caution I never leave the room when recharging, I use a thermal gun to monitor the battery temperature and I have fused the pack with a special resettable fuse **AGAIN YOU DON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE IF YOU SHORT THESE THINGS OUT**

Actually all battery packs should be fuse protected. When carrying a AA battery pack I use a piece of tape between the positive post and the case and remove it when required,Cheap insurance.

While its fun to tinker with these batteries and there are lots of used ones out there you can be playing with fire. There is lots of information about the parameters of these batteries and when using them use caution.

Technology has made major changes to the capabilities, features and sizes of the radios we can now take to the field and batteries are just starting to catch up.



April 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 LARC Annual Dinner Meeting 6 pm Chicago Joes	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					